

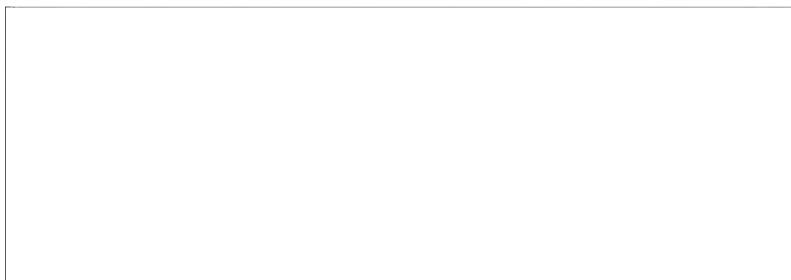
# **THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST**

ISSUED BY THE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

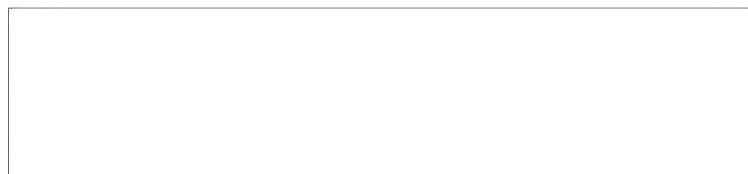
29 AUGUST 1963  
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. South Vietnam

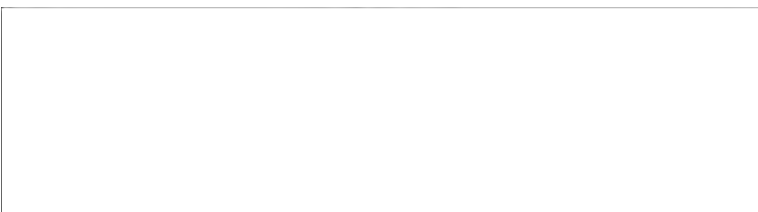
a. Nhu continues to take steps to consolidate the regime's position.



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e. [redacted] we hear rumors that Nhu has placed his brother, Ngo Dinh Can, under house arrest near Hue [redacted]

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f. We have noted no appreciable change in the level of Viet Cong military actions since the crack-down on the Buddhists.

(Cont'd)

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g. The Viet Cong appear quite cautious at present, possibly fearing that strong action might not be to their advantage at this juncture.

## 2. UN-Congo

a. U Thant has turned a deaf ear to US arguments that UN forces in Congo can and should be extended beyond 31 December.

b. He also feels that lack of funds will result in near total phase-out of UN civilian operations by 31 December.

c. Thant is convinced that the General Assembly would not raise the funds essential to prolong UN operations in the Congo.

d. He also feels strongly that his mandate has been fulfilled and disagrees with the US view that he still has authority to maintain law and order in the Congo.

e. Nevertheless, our UN mission has some hope that assurances of additional funds and expressions of African support for continuation of the force might conceivably give Thant an "out" for continuing the operation under a label other than "peace-keeping operation."

### 3. Haiti

a. Haitian ex-General Leon  
Cantave reportedly plans to invade  
Haiti

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4. USSR-Cuba

a. The thinning out of the Soviet presence in Cuba continues with the departure aboard the Soviet cargo ship Valentina Tereshkova of naval communications personnel and perhaps other Soviet naval personnel as well.

b. Photography of the ship, which left Havana on 25 August, shows 175 persons on deck, 5 field kitchens, 5 large mess tables, and possibly some equipment from the naval communications net.

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5. Laos

a. Evidence is mounting that the "dissident" neutralist troops who defected to the Pathet Lao earlier this year are increasingly dissatisfied with their present lot.

b. Some of these troops--they numbered 600 originally--already have broken away [redacted]

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c. [redacted]

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NOTES

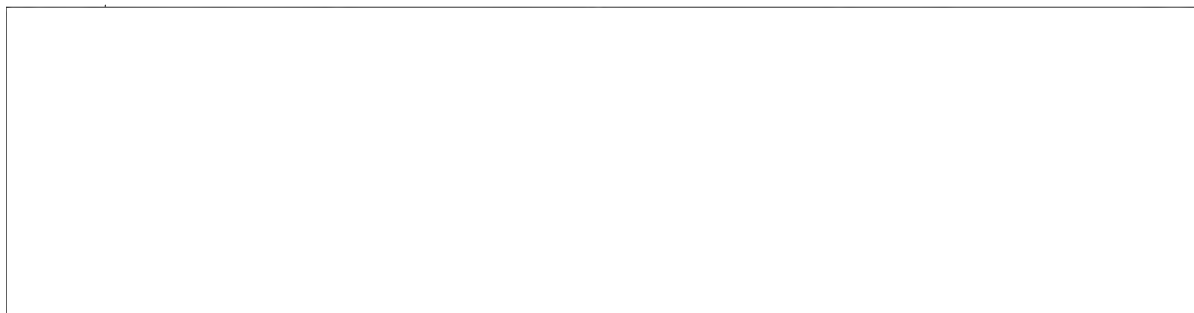
- A. Yugoslavia-UN [redacted] Tito may conclude his Latin American goodwill tour-- it begins on 16 September--with a visit to the UN. [redacted]  
[redacted] the possibility of such a visit and that a speech for Tito to deliver to the General Assembly has already been written.
- B. Brazil President Goulart may get away as planned to Europe in late September to visit several Western capitals and Warsaw and Prague. This trip is apparently the one he planned last year, but cancelled because of political difficulties in Brazil.
- C. Laos Preliminary reports on Pathet Lao representative Phoumi Vongvichit's talks with Souvanna are not encouraging. Souvanna's political adviser told our Embassy that the talks were not productive and that the PL were repeating all their usual demands. The feeling in Vientiane is that whatever the purpose of the Phoumi Vongvichit visit to Vientiane, it is not to reinvigorate the coalition government.
- D. Finland Embassy Helsinki reports that Prime Minister Karjalainen's coalition-cabinet may fall or require major alterations. The problem is a sharp disagreement between the conservative and trade union representatives within the Cabinet over measures to meet the government's financial crisis. Even if the cabinet falls, it would probably have to remain in a caretaker capacity for some time because of the difficulties in putting together a successor.

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